

ABSTRACT

Methods for producing and multiplexing a file format, as well as structures for a hierarchical file format and data file, are provided. The data file may include data that is
5 divided in a hierarchical manner, including a highest level document portion that supports all lower level portions of the data file. The hierarchical data file forms a multimedia document that can be displayed on a computer display with accompanying audio. The multimedia document may include data in a variety of file formats, including image data, sound data, textual data, and video data. At least some of the data is preferably
10 multiplexed in the data file, so that the multiplexed data can be progressively played and displayed as it is downloaded by a computer. Data that cannot be progressively played need not be multiplexed in the data file and can be located in an area of the data file separate from the multiplexed data.

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